AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice. The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended)   A sub-sea controller located under the sea level for managing a plurality of tools in a sub-sea well installation, the sub-sea controller comprising:

downloading means to download an application module to the sub-sea controller;

a native application implemented within the sub-sea controller; and

a virtual machine to execute the downloaded application module separately from the native application, wherein the downloading and the executing of the application module are performed without interrupting the executing of the native application of the subsea controller.

2. (Previously presented) The sub-sea controller according to claim 1, further comprising:

a native interface implemented within the sub-sea controller, the native interface enabling the application module to access the native application.

3. (Previously presented) The sub-sea controller according to claim 2, wherein the native interface enables the native application to access the application module.

4. (Previously presented) The sub-sea controller according to claim 2, further comprising:

a native memory wherein the native application is executed; and

a defined memory wherein the application module is executed, the defined memory being distinct from the native memory.

5. (Previously presented) The sub-sea controller according to claim 2, further comprising:

a protection register, the protection register authorizing an access to the native application only if a key code is written hereinto;

accessing means to access the protection register from the application module.

6. (Previously presented) The sub-sea controller of claim 1 wherein the application module contains a driver for a tool.

7. (Previously presented) A sub-sea well installation comprising a sub-sea controller according to claim 1.

8. (Currently amended) A method for updating a software of a sub-sea controller located under the sea level, the sub-sea controller managing a plurality of tools in a sub-sea well, the method comprising:

executing a native application of the sub-sea controller within the sub-sea controller;

downloading an application module into the sub-sea controller; and

executing the application module using a virtual machine implemented within the sub-sea controller separately from the native application, wherein the downloading and the executing of the application module are performed without interrupting the executing of the native application of the subsea controller.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

executing a native interface within the sub-sea controller;

accessing the native interface from the native application to exchange data with the application module.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

executing a native application of the sub-sea controller within the sub-sea controller;

executing a native interface within the sub-sea controller;

accessing the native interface from the application module to exchange data with the native application.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

executing the application module in a defined memory;

executing the native application in a native memory;

wherein the defined memory is distinct from the native memory.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the application module contains a driver for a tool.